

some of the language in H. Res. 951 do not advance us towards the most important goal relative to this issue: peaceful co-existence for the region.

The resolution properly states America's support for the people of Israel and their right to defend themselves. It notes the near daily rocket and mortar attacks on southern Israel that have been launched from the Gaza Strip since Israel withdrew from Gaza in the interests of peace in 2005. It fairly condemns Hamas and other terrorist organizations. I have never wavered in my support for Israel's right to defend itself against terrorists. I approved their action against the Iraqi nuclear site. I was bitterly criticized for my defense of the "targeted assassination" of Sheikh Yassin in 2004. I led the resistance in the city of Somerville to a campaign to divest in Israel. I am a friend of Israel and I do not believe this resolution makes Israel safer. It fails to reconfirm our commitment to peace and to a process that can bring about peace. I believe this failure renders America less able to be an effective broker for peace in the region.

In addition, I question the desirability and wisdom of reiterating the status of Iran and Syria as "state sponsors of terror". The Department of State has so listed them and, certainly, there is ample evidence that both countries have actively and passively provided aid and comfort to Hamas and also to Hizbollah. Certainly, the current leaders of Iran have publicly stated their vile opinions about Israel and their determination to eradicate it. No one can deny these facts. Nonetheless, I have always been of the opinion that finding a way to peace is more important than name calling—even if the names seem to be well-deserved. I believe that those who are truly committed to finding a peaceful solution—two democratic states, recognized by other nations and coexisting in peace—must not succumb to the temptation of name-calling. We cannot let terrorists shape our agenda. We must remain determined to pursue peace.

I would ask anyone whether they are more or less likely to open their ears so they can hear their opponent if that opponent constantly calls them names. I would ask anyone whether they are more or less likely to believe that someone who calls them names can truly understand their concerns. We all suffer from the same human weakness that causes us to lash out at those who attack us. This is a natural and understandable emotional reaction. However, it is one that we must resist, especially when engaging in what should be seen as deliberative and thoughtful endeavors such as Congressional resolutions.

That said, I believe every observer agrees that Egypt and Syria must be active participants in resolving this conflict. Many might agree that Iran must participate as well—or at least acquiesce. How then does it encourage them to do so when the Congress states or implies that they are to blame for the problems in the region? This question seems particularly relevant because the resolution, a condemnation of Hamas rocket attacks and an expression of solidarity with the people of Israel does not require us to condemn other regional powers. There is no need to "poke our finger in the eye" of governments able to thwart or advance a peaceful solution.

I would point out that the Congress has taken this approach for years. We have passed numerous resolutions—too many, in

my view, that are gratuitously confrontational. I ask: Have those resolutions moved us any closer to finding a peaceful solution? The approach has not worked thus far and I see no reason to believe it will start working now.

I voted "present" rather than "no" because I was in sympathy with much of the resolution. I voted as a Member of Congress determined that the United States act responsibly in pursuit of peace.

HONORING JOHNNIE BENDY FOR
RECEIVING THE LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Johnnie Bendy for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Mineola Chamber of Commerce.

Johnnie Bendy, named after her father who passed away weeks before she was born, is known for the impact she has made in her community. Ms. Bendy's grandmother and elderly neighbors influenced her love for nature and education by taking her fishing, teaching her to identify medicinal herbs, and explaining the intricacies of nature. Being raised by a single mother in the 1930s inevitably led to difficult times, and Ms. Bendy recalls going hungry for days.

After attending grade school in Mineola, Ms. Bendy worked to pay her way through school at Texas College. After graduating, Ms. Bendy taught at McFarland School until 1964 when she began her career as a librarian at Mineola Middle School, a post she held for 38 years.

In addition to teaching, Ms. Bendy devoted her time volunteering and serving on the city planning and zoning commission, the Kindness Cottage, the Mineola Chamber of Commerce, the Community Chest, United Way, the East Texas Council of Government, and is a former president of Friends of the Library. Ms. Bendy has been recognized both locally and nationally as a Distinguished Teacher, Volunteer of the Year, and 1998 Woman of the Year.

In 2007, Mineola Mayor Pete Smith dedicated a historical marker to Ms. Bendy in the Mineola Nature Preserve on the Sabine River that now marks a trail leading to the International & Great Northern Rail Road where she spent her childhood playing outdoors.

In the midst of all this activity, Ms. Bendy sang in her church choir and devoted time to organizing and serving on various church committees.

Ms. Bendy's perseverance and selfless attitude in the face of cumbersome obstacles qualifies her to receive this lifetime achievement award. Her work helped Mineola become a better place to live, work, raise a family, and realize the American dream.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Johnnie Bendy for earning the Lifetime Achievement Award and for sharing her passions to inspire those around her.

TRIBUTE TO CLEORA MAGEE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Cleora Magee as she retires as the executive director of the city of Flint Human Relations Commission. A celebration will be held in her honor on Saturday, March 15 in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Cleora Magee has served the people of the Flint area for many years. After working in the registrar's office at Mott Community College, Cleora became a community organizer at the Urban Coalition of Greater Flint. She went on to work at the Flint Neighborhood Improvement and Preservation Project, Incorporated, as a Community Organizer, and a Neighborhood Service Center manager. In 1996 she became the executive director of the city of Flint Human Relations Commission.

In her capacity as the executive director, Cleora has touched the lives of thousands of people. She serves many organizations and is affiliated with the following: secretary for the board of the Fair Winds Girl Scout Council; secretary of the board of the Flint Neighborhood Improvement and Preservation Project, Incorporated; secretary for the board of the Flint Neighborhood Coalition; a member of the board of directors and chairperson of the Michigan Outstate Chapter of the National Association of Human Rights Workers; member of the board and mediator with the Community Resolution Center; Member of the Advisory Board of YouthBuild; the Mayor's Representative on the Emergency Food and Shelter Program Local Board and Allocations Committee; a member of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; a member of Flint Rotary; the chairperson of the Sponsorship Committee for the National Multicultural Diversity Institute; co-chairperson of the Community Response Committee with the Michigan Alliance Against Hate Crimes; a member of the Hurley Medical Center Bioethics Committee; a member of the M.L. King, Jr. Annual Tribute Planning Committee; a member of the Genesee County Committee for Community Peace; a member of Community Challenge Visual Change Group; a member of the city of Flint Threat Assessment Team; the coordinator of the city of Flint Employee Combined Charitable Campaign; a member of the United Way of Genesee County Strengthening Families System of Care; a member of the New Immigrant Services Coalition of MidMichigan; a member of the Kwanzaa Committee; the secretary for Unification for Urban Equality; a member of the Donald Riegle Annual Service Award Event Committee; a member of the Community Outreach for Family and Youth Steering Committee; a member of the McCree Special Groups Committee; the African American Heritage Collaborative Committee; the Youth Violence Prevention Coalition; and the city of Flint Emergency Evacuation Committee.

Cleora is married to Percy Magee. She has four children and three stepchildren. She received her bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University in Community Development. Cleora attends True Gospel Missionary Baptist Church where she serves as deaconess.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating

Cleora Magee on her career of service to the people of Flint, Michigan. The community is losing a great advocate and I wish her the best as she enjoys her well deserved retirement.

IN HONOR OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce. The Monterey Chamber of Commerce was created in 1908 from a loosely organized merchants' association. In 1949, the name was changed to reflect its expansion across the entire peninsula including the sister cities of Carmel, Pacific Grove, Del Rey Oaks, Marina, Seaside, and Sand City as well as the neighboring unincorporated areas of Big Sur, Carmel Valley, Carmel Highlands and Pebble Beach.

Today, a chamber is more than a non-profit organization; it is a business, and its product is its members. As the largest chamber of commerce in the tri-county area, it provides leadership on issues, programs and business development that benefit both the community and their member businesses.

Now 1,000 members strong, the chamber's commitment to serving the business interests of the entire peninsula strengthens economic growth, promotes the wonders of Monterey County, and serves the needs of our many visitors annually from around the world.

In answer to the question, "What has the Chamber done for me lately?" Board chair Terry Low and president and CEO Astrid Coleman offer these programs and goals: promoting its members by making each one aware of local products and services and creating events to showcase the members; offering educational programs, coaching services and forums to help small business owners succeed; and presenting a "voice for business" to legal and legislative authorities about issues affecting peninsula business and the community. Recognizing the need for a properly prepared workforce, the chamber mobilizes business and community resources to

ensure quality education on the Monterey Peninsula, and is dedicated to sustainability through the local greening of businesses.

Madam Speaker, I salute 100 years of effort by the members, volunteers, committee members, board members, community partners, and staff of the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, whose dedication has made this organization a vital and integral part of our community.

CONGRATULATING EWING TIGERS GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Ewing Tigers girls basketball team for winning the 2008 Nebraska State Girls Basketball Class D-2 Championship by the score of 45-44 last week, just barely edging the Pleasanton Bulldogs.

The returning champs from 2007—who went 0-19 just three years ago—found their salvation on the foul line, making three of four free throws with just 23 seconds to go in the game. A coach I know once said that if you make your free throws, you win the game. Well, the girls from Ewing certainly proved him right.

The players showed grit and determination during their championship game, but also dedication, teamwork and responsibility during the regular season to get them to the final game. They should be proud of their accomplishments, as I'm sure their entire community is of them.

I hope the girls and their coaches are as proud of themselves as we are of them. They deserve a well earned break, and I look forward to following their season next year.

HONORING SUZANNE LINDLEY FOR HER DEDICATION TO HELPING OTHERS FIGHT CANCER

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 10, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Suzanne Lindley for her

dedication to inspiring cancer patients and survivors and for courageously fighting her own battle against colorectal cancer.

In 1998, after receiving a bleak diagnosis that she had advanced metastatic colorectal cancer, Mrs. Lindley reached out to fellow patients in an attempt to gain emotional and medical support. Nine years later, thousands are looking to Mrs. Lindley for inspiration. In addition to being involved in eight different associations, Mrs. Lindley is a co-founder and president of Yttrium-90 Microspheres Education and Support, and serves on the Colorectal Cancer Coalition steering committee for Cover Your Butt. Mrs. Lindley also works with the American Cancer Society as the online chair for Van Zandt County Relay for Life, the ACT District 5 chair, a Cancer Action Network member, and a Cancer Support Network member.

Through her own experience, Mrs. Lindley learned the importance of support groups for both patients suffering with cancer and their families. But rather than focusing on herself, Mrs. Lindley organized survivor advocacy to support cancer patients.

With a desire to bring hope to others, Mrs. Lindley took her personal story to the national stage and courageously shared it with magazines, radio and television hosts. During her appearance on the TODAY Show, Katie Couric referred to her as a "Medical Matchmaker" for promoting the "buddy system" while fighting this disease.

Today, I have the privilege of meeting with Mrs. Lindley. However, this is not Mrs. Lindley's first trip to Washington, DC. Desiring to take a proactive approach, Mrs. Lindley has spent much time with lawmakers, both back home and in Washington, to petition Congress for their help in the fight against cancer.

Cancer is a devastating disease that has touched many lives. As a former volunteer and board member of the American Cancer Society of Dallas, I have seen how cancer impacts a family. As a husband and father, I share a deep commitment to the fight against cancer.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Suzanne Lindley for her selfless spirit in the face of a consuming disease.